

Serial No. 09/981238, filed 10/17/2001

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A drive axle assembly comprising:
  - an axle housing;
  - coaxial axle shafts supported at least partially within said axle housing;
  - a driven shaft supported at least partially within said axle housing, and transverse to said coaxial axle shafts;
  - a gear assembly disposed within said axle housing coupling said coaxial axle shafts and said driven shaft, wherein said gear assembly includes a differential coupling said coaxial axle shafts and said driven shaft to permit relative rotation between said coaxial axle shafts;
  - a bearing assembly supporting said driven shaft in said axle housing;
  - a first seal interposed between said driven shaft and said axle housing adjacent to said bearing assembly, said first seal separating said axle housing into first and second cavities with said bearing assembly and said gear assembly respectively disposed therein;
  - a first lubricant in said first cavity lubricating said bearing assembly; and
  - a second lubricant of a composition different than said first lubricant in said second cavity lubricating said gear assembly.

Serial No. 09/981238, filed 10/17/2001

2. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said axle housing includes a main housing portion supporting said coaxial axle shafts and a bearing cage removably secured to said main housing portion for supporting said driven shaft.
3. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is a pinion bearing cage.
4. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is a through shaft bearing cage.
5. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is an input bearing cage.
6. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said first seal is interposed between said bearing cage and said driven shaft.
7. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 6, wherein said bearing assembly includes a cup affixed to said bearing cage and a cone affixed to said driven shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said cup and said cone, said first seal interposed between and in engagement with said bearing cage and said cone.

✓ Serial No. 09/981238, filcd 10/17/2001

8. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said second lubricant includes a GL5 additive.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 14, further including a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said housing adjacent said bearing assembly opposite said first seal.

11. (Previously Presented) A drive axle bearing cage assembly comprising:  
a bearing cage;  
a driven shaft supported by said bearing cage, said driven shaft having a yoke at one end and a pinion at another end opposite said yoke;  
a bearing assembly supporting said driven shaft in said bearing cage between said yoke and said pinion, said bearing assembly including at least one cup affixed to said bearing cage and at least one cone affixed to said driven shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said at least one cup and said at least one cone;  
a first seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said yoke;  
a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said pinion; and  
wherein said first and second seals are interposed between and in engagement with said bearing cage and said at least one cone.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

Serial No. 09/981238, filed 10/17/2001

14. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first seal is interposed between said gear assembly and said bearing assembly.